

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: PRAVDA CONTINUES TO EXPLORE U.S. SENATE

REF: MOSCOW 482

1. TWO MORE SERGEY VISHNEVSKY ARTICLES ON THE U.S. SENATE APPEARED IN PRAVDA JAN. 12 AND 13. TAKEN TOGETHER WITH HIS ARTICLE ON FULBRIGHT AND JACKSON (REFTEL, SERIES PROVIDES NUANCED DESCRIPTION OF ATTITUDES TOWARD U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE IN SENATE RANGING FAR BEYOND MATERIAL USUALLY AVAILABLE TO READERS OF SOVIET DAILY PRESS.

2. VISHNEVSKY'S APPROACH IS DISARMING AND, TO GREAT EXTENT, CONSISTS OF GIVING EACH SENATOR ENOUGH ROPE TO HANG HIMSELF. IN INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS, HE OBTAINS QUOTATIONS SUPPORTING DETENTE FROM SUCH "FORMER HAWKS" AS STROM THURMOND AND WALLACE BENNETT. SEN. JACOB JAVITS PROVES MORE ARGUMENTATIVE, BUT VISHNEVSKY GIVES HIM CREDIT FOR SINCERITY WHEN HE SAYS "DETENTE IS PARAMOUNT."

3. VISHNEVSKY RAISES QUESTION OF HOW SEVERAL SENATORS SQUARE POSITIVE STATEMENTS ON U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THEIR POSITIONS ON MFN AND STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION. DRAWING HIS ANSWER FROM
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THE SENATORS THEMSELVES (SOME DESCRIBED AS OFF-THE-RECORD) AND FROM U.S. CONTACTS, HE EMPHASIZES STRENGTH OF LOBBYISTS

REPRESENTING "ZIONISTS" AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. SEN. HOWARD CANNON, IN VISHNEVSKY'S INTERPRETATION, MUST PAY ATTENTION TO HANK GREENSPUN. MANY SENATORS CLEAR SPEECHES WITH SY KENNEN (PHONETIC), DESCRIBED AS CHIEF ZIONIST LOBBYIST ON CAPITOL HILL. ADM. MOORER IS DESCRIBED IN A VIGNETTE AS HOLDING FORTH TO REPORTERS IN SENATE CORRIDORS. ON OTHER HAND, STAFF AIDE TO SENATOR MARK HATFIELD TOLD VISHNEVSKY PROUDLY THAT HATFIELD DOES NOT KNUCKLE UNDER TO EITHER MILITARY OR ZIONIST LOBBIES, AND VISHNEVSKY CONCEDES THIS IS TRUE OF HATFIELD AS WELL AS MIKE MANSFIELD.

4. INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS IN POSITIONS OF SENATORS SCOTT (ON SALT) AND MONDALE (ON MFN) ARE ALSO BROUGHT OUT BY VISHNEVSKY, WHILE SEN. BAKER IS TERMED A "RISING STAR" WHO HAS MOVED FAR FROM HIS PREVIOUS CONSERVATIVE POSITION. MONDALE IS MADE TO LOOK FAINTLY RIDICULOUS FOR NOT HAVING READ ANYTHING ABOUT LIFE IN THE USSR. BUT FOR HIM AND VIRTUALLY ALL SENATORS INTERVIEWED, VISHNEVSKY HAS A KIND WORD, A RAY OF HOPE THAT THE LONG-TERM TREND WILL FIND THEM ALL SUPPORTING DETENTE. HE OBSERVES THAT THEIR POSITIONS ARE BY NO MEANS FROZEN, AND THE FUTURE ALONE WILL TELL HOW THE ONGOING STRUGGLE IN CONGRESS DEVELOPS.

5. EFFECTIVE REINFORCEMENT OF VISHNEVSKY'S PORTRAIT OF THE SENATE WAS JAN. 13 TELEVISION SEQUENCE BY VALENTIN ZORIN, WHO INTERVIEWED SENS. FULBRIGHT AND EDWARD KENNEDY AND DAVID ROCKEFELLER. JACKSON, WHO REFUSED TV INTERVIEW, WAS REPRESENTED ON SCREEN BY STILLS. BASIC MESSAGE WAS ONCE AGAIN THAT DETENTE HAS STRONG SUPPORT IN U.S. (DESPITE COLD WAR SUPPORTERS AS EXEMPLIFIED BY JACKSON).DUBS

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